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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Military Information from the Lonal Border Area at Wittenberge, East of Luebeck and Thuringia

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 6 March 1951

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At the end of January 1951, [redacted] there were plans to evacuate all villages in the area between Doemitz (M 54/T 31) and Havelberg (M 53/Y 97) when the danger of floods would be imminent. For example, provisions were made that the village of Vieseecke (M 54/Y 89) was to accommodate the residents of Ruelstedt (M 54/Y 78). [redacted] not know the authority responsible for such planning. [redacted] (1)

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2. On 27 and 30 January, no Soviet troops were observed in Luedersdorf (M 54/T 08). [redacted] the Soviet komendatura was moved to Herrnburg (M 54/S 98) in early January. Soviet troops moved into a second house in Herrnburg. The soldiers stationed there totaled about 60. They were equipped with motor vehicles [redacted] The number of German Grenzpolizei personnel in Herrnburg was estimated [redacted] at 225. The police were just moving into three houses, in addition to the four houses previously occupied by them. (2)

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3. [redacted] the villages along the Elbe River stretch between Wittenberge (M 54/Y 69) and Doemitz would allegedly be evacuated in mid-February because of an imminent flood. Plans had been prepared for the distribution of the evacuees. Busing commissions inspected all dwellings in the villages. It was said that Soviet troops and German police would be stationed there once the civilian population is evacuated. The evacuation plan also included the locality of Pentwisch (M 54/T 06), which is located in an elevated area and has never been threatened by a flood. It was said that the population of Wittenberge was instructed through loudspeaker vans not to be alarmed about evacuation plans. (1)

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4. Soviet border guard detachments in border localities in the Nordheim (M 51/H 80)-Dernbach (L 51/H 63) area were reinforced in early January. The new personnel wore crimson epaulets and were armed with automatic rifles, submachine guns, and light and heavy machine guns. Only on the Katzenstein were mortars of about 120 mm caliber seen. On 31 January, the Soviet border detachment in Dernbach, about 13 km southwest of [redacted]

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[redacted]

Bad Salzungen, numbered 40 men, instead of the 15 men previously stationed there. The detachments in Katzenstein, about 5 km southeast of Schmalkalden, and in Unterweid, 8 km west of Nordheim, were increased from 8 to 40 men each. A Soviet Unit of 80 to 120 soldiers was stationed in Empfertshausen, about 5 km northwest of Nordheim, and another unit of 200 soldiers in Frankenheim, about 12km southwest of Nordheim. (3)

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[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) [redacted] reported similarly from the Lenzen-Wittenberge area in the second half of January 1951. [redacted] The information contained in the present report is therefore given credence.

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- (2) On 22 January 1951 [redacted] reported that there have been no changes in the occupation of Hornburg, Luedersdorf and other localities in the neighborhood.

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- [redacted]
- (3) No changes regarding the border control in the Nordheim-Dermbach area have been reported. On 21 January 1951 [redacted] reported that no changes were observed in the Soviet border guard posts and patrols in the sector of the German Grenzpolizei Kommandantur in Oechsen, north of Dermbach.

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